

Revising with Style

LESSON

18

Combining Sentences I

Add variety and complexity to your writing by combining strings of simplistic sentences and omitting repeated words. Study the suggestions and examples below.

- Use a conjunction to join two predicates that share a common subject.
 - a. Prehistoric artists painted with nothing but earth and saliva.
 - b. They created images full of life. [**yet**]

*Prehistoric artists painted with nothing but earth and saliva **yet** created images full of life.*
- Omit repeated words, using commas to separate words or phrases in a series. (Notice that the verb form must change to agree with the compound subject.)
 - a. Barb is studying cave paintings.
 - b. Tim is studying cave paintings.
 - c. Maggie is studying cave paintings. [**, and**]

***Barb, Tim, and Maggie** are studying cave paintings.*
- Add modifiers.
 - a. The artist painted a picture.
 - b. The artist was young.
 - c. The picture was colorful.

*The **young** artist painted a **colorful** picture.*
- Change adjectives to adverbs.
 - a. She drew a flower.
 - b. She was careful as she drew it. [**-ly**]

*She **carefully** drew a flower.*
- Use appositives.
 - a. The paintings are of animals. [**:**]
 - b. Some of the animals are bison.
 - c. Some of the animals are deer.
 - d. Some of the animals are horses. [**, and**]

*The paintings are of animals: **bison, deer, and horses.***

EXERCISE Combine each cluster of sentences into a single sentence. For the first three clusters, use the clues provided—underlined words and phrases and bracketed words, word parts, and punctuation marks—to help you combine the sentences.

Sample a. It seems humans have always had impulses.
 b. The impulses are artistic.

Revision It seems humans have always had artistic impulses.

1. a. The oldest known paintings were created more than thirty thousand years ago.
 b. They have survived undamaged. [**yet**]

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2. a. People living many millennia ago carved objects.
b. Those people painted images.
c. Those people built shelters. [**and**]

3. a. Some animals in cave art have horns.
b. The horns are exaggerated.
c. The horns are grotesque. [**-ly**]

4. a. To study prehistoric cultures, anthropologists use several clues.
b. They use art.
c. They use fossils.
d. They use pollens.

5. a. Prehistoric cave paintings were discovered at Lascaux, France.
b. These prehistoric cave paintings are the best-known ones.
c. They were discovered more than fifty years ago.

6. a. Other cave paintings have been found.
b. There are some at Altamira, Spain.
c. There are some at Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, France.
d. There are some at Pêche-Merle, France.

7. a. The artists often worked far at the back of cave chambers.
b. The cave chambers were tiny.
c. The cave chambers were dimly lit.

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8. a. Lamps have been found in some caves.
b. The lamps are small.
c. The lamps are made of stone.

9. a. Michel Lorblanchet is an artist.
b. He is talented at his art.
c. He is also a cave archaeologist.

10. a. Lorblanchet has figured out prehistoric artists' techniques.
b. He has re-created their actual experience.
c. He has reproduced the Pêche-Merle paintings of horses.
